DISPUTE OVER CUT OFF POINT REGARDING PAYMENT OF CCS

2386. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not clarified the issue of dispute over cut off point in the matter of payment of Cash Compensatory Support to exporters;

(b) whether delay has been causing apprehension to the commitment made by Government to exporters earlier;

(c) if so, what further steps are being taken to restore trust in Government orders/circulars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Government have issued clear instructions to all concerned, about the cut off point in the matter of calculation of cash compensatory support to exporters.

SALES TAX EVASION NOTICE TO STC

2387. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Enforcement authorities have issued sales tax evasion notice of the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) for alleged nonpayment of sales tax on the import of 30,000 tonnes of newsprint from Balkana Paper Mills in Russia as reported in the Economic Times of 8th December, 1993;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authorities found a defective document which was presented to Customs for clearance in connection with a consignment of 10,000 tonnes of newsprint which arrived on board a Russian ship during the current year;

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what are the facts in this regard; and

(d) what are the reasons for evading sales tax and what action Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Though the quantity mentioned in the Sales Tax Notice is 30,000 tonnes, a quantity of 4,000 tonnes only was imported by STC at Bombay during the period covered by the Notice. There is no mention of any defective document in the Sales Tax Notice.

From Sept. 1993, till date, STC has imported only 14,000 tonnes of Russian newsprint against its licence for 30,000 tonnes and the imported quantity has been received at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and most of the newsprint has already been sold on high seas sale basis.

STC has contended that it is not liable to pay Sales Tax on high seas sales. Necessary information has been supplied by STC to the Sales Tax authorities in Bombay in response to the Notice. Government has also directed the Vigilance division of STC to enquire into the matter.

चीन द्वारा अपनी औषधियों को भारत में बहुत कम मूल्यों पर बेचे जाने के संबंध में इण्डियन ड्रग्स मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन की ओर से प्राप्त हुई शिकायतें

2388. श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :—

(क) क्या यह सच है सरकार को चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान इण्डियन ड्रग्स मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसियेशन ओरली, बम्बई की ओर से इस आशय की शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं कि चीन में निर्मित औषधियों से भारतीय बाजार को पाट दिये जाने के कारण स्थानीय औषध निर्माण एककों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है और इसके परिणामस्वरूप स्थानीय औषध निर्माण एकक बन्द होने के कगार पर पहुंच गये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 30 नवम्बर, 1993 तक सरकार को इस प्रकार की कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ; और

(ग) क्या बाजार पाटने को रोकने संबंधी प्राधिकरण द्वारा उक्त शिकायतों के संबंध में कोई कार्यवाही की गई है ; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) से (ग) सीमाशुल्क टैरिफ अधिनियम तथा सीमा शुल्क टैरिफ नियमों के अन्यन प्राधिकृत अधिकारी को सामान्यतः पाटन रोधी कार्रवाई तभी शुरू करनी होती है जबकि प्रभारित घरेलू उद्योग द्वारा या उसकी ओर से ऐसा लिखित अनुरोध प्राप्त हो जाए जिसके पाटन के बारे में, घरेलू उद्योग को हुई क्षति के बारे में तथा इन दोनों बातों में कारणात्य संबंध के बारे में साक्ष्य दिये गये हों।

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी को दो शिकायतें मिली हैं जिनमें भारतीय बाजार में चीनी मूल की दवाओं के पाटन के बारे में आरोप लगाया गया है। पहले मामले में आवेदन करने वाली फर्म "घरेलू उद्योग" के उस पारिभाषिक शब्द के अर्थ के अन्तर्गत नहीं आती है जैसा कि सीमाशुल्क (डम्प की गई वस्तुओं की पहचान, आकलन तथा शुल्क या अतिरिक्त शुल्क वसूली तथा क्षति का निर्धारण) नियम, 1985 में दिया गया है। दिनांक 30-11-1993 की दूसरी शिकायत 11-12-93 को मिली और उस पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS

2389. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the relationship between various Export Promotion Councils and Government and whether Government will recognise elected Presidents and other officials etc. of Export Promotion Councils which have come to the adverse notice of the Government; and

(b) is Government considering stopping of official recognition grant in aid, award functions, inauguration functions etc. of such Councils ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The relationship between Export Promotion Councils and Government is governed by Chapter XIII of the Export-Import Policy. The Export Promotion Councils are non-profit organisations registered under the Companies Act and Societies Registration Act, as the case may be and as per para 149, would be autonomous and shall regulate their own affairs. While the Government recognises the Export Promotion Councils, there is no separate provision for recognition of elected President and other officials.

(b) The Government support to the EPCs would depend upon (a) effective discharge of functions assigned to them; (b) democratisation of the membership of the EPCs; (c) democratic elections of office bearers of the EPCs being held regularly; and (d) timely audit of the accounts of the EPCs.

JUTE MODERNISATION FUND

2390. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute modernisation fund which was launched seven years ago failed to achieve its objective due to failure in preparing a viable rehabilitation scheme for Jute Modernisation;

(b) if so, what are the impediments that have been identified in the modernisation scheme;

(c) how the funds have been spent since its inception, stating the results achieved so far, in the rehabilitation of the Jute mills ; and

(d) what strategy has been worked out by Government to fulfill the task ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a)